5th August 1932]

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—"May I know whether the procedure adopted in this case is not opposed to the rules regarding the calling of tenders?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"The general rule is that tenders must be called for. In this particular case, it is in the interests of everybody that it was given to the principal contractor."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Was it given with the previous consent of the Government, or was the matter subsequently ratified by the Government?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"The Government subsequently ratified the Chief Engineer's action. He has discretion in the matter."

Law and Order—General

Alleged beating of certain picketers in Bezwada on 10th June 1932.

* 145 *Q.*—Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that on 10th June 1932 Mr. Challaswami Narayanamurthi and Surapaneni Gopalakrishnayya picketed the foreign cloth shop of Manikondu Narasimham and Majeti Subbayya in Bezwada;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that in spite of the Government Order, dated 15th January 1932, complaints have been received by Government of individual picketers who are less than five in number being beaten by the police; and

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the picketers referred to in (*a*) were subsequently admitted into the Peoples' Hospital for treatment; if so, whether the hon. the Home Member will be pleased to call for a statement from the Medical Officer in charge of the hospital showing the number and nature of injuries received and place the same on the table of the House?

A.—(*a*) Challaswami Narayanamurthi, Surapaneni Gopalakrishnayya and three others picketed the foreign cloth shops in the bazaar in Bezwada on 10th June 1932.

(*b*) Allegations have been made in some instances and have been investigated.

(*c*) The Government have no information, but will enquire.

Lathi charges in Bezwada between 6th January 1932 to 4th July 1932.

* 146 *Q.*—Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many lathi charges or cane charges have there been in Bezwada from 6th January 1932 to 4th July 1932;

(*b*) what the number of persons injured in each charge is and what the nature of their injuries is; and

(c) what the circumstances were under which they were made and the necessity for the same?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) The Government have not complete information on all the details required. A memorial on the subject of Police action in Bezwada is under the consideration of the Government.

Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt:—"May I know what action the Government has taken on the memorial from the people of Bezwada?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur:—"The memorial is under the consideration of Government."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—"The answer is that the Government have not complete information. What do they mean by it? Do they mean to make further enquiries?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur:—"Yes, we make enquiries, and on enquiry if it is found that the Police were in the wrong, disciplinary action will be taken."

Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt:—"May I know whether any evidence will be adduced in the enquiry to be held?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur:—"It is not possible for me to say anything in the matter. But I shall consider the suggestion of the hon. Member."

Alleged beating on 13th April 1932 of volunteers by the Police in Bezwada.

* 147 Q.—Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that on 13th April 1932, the 'Jallianwalabhag Day', two batches of eight volunteers each went out in procession in Bezwada and the Police beat them severely with lathis;

(b) whether it is a fact that one of the said volunteers Banka Yedukondalu, even after he fell down unconscious after the beating, was three times raised up and beaten by the sergeants again and again and that his left leg was fractured;

(c) whether it is a fact that another of the said volunteers, Mr. Yanduri Veeraraghavaya, was beaten on his testicles on that day; and

(d) whether it is a fact that Mr. Kambampati Venkateswara Rao, another of the said volunteers, was lifted up even after he fell unconscious and beaten by the sergeants and was severely injured under his left eye?

A.—(a) to (d) The Government have no information and they have no reason to suppose that the volunteers mentioned were beaten in the manner indicated. Nor are they aware of any complaints of ill-treatment preferred by these persons at the time of alleged occurrence.